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Engineers getting on right track

Wolverhampton racing driver Dean Smith teamed up with Dudley chartered accountants Clement Keys to help a group of engineering students from the University of Birmingham build careers in motorsport by supporting their entry in this year's **Formula Student**.

Renault driver Dean, aged 20, is contesting the Eurocup Formula Renault 2.0 Championship. He put the university team's drivers on track for success by spending a day teaching them the finer points of race-craft.

Formula Student is an initiative organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers to nurture future engineering talent by involving students in the design and production of a single-seater racing car.

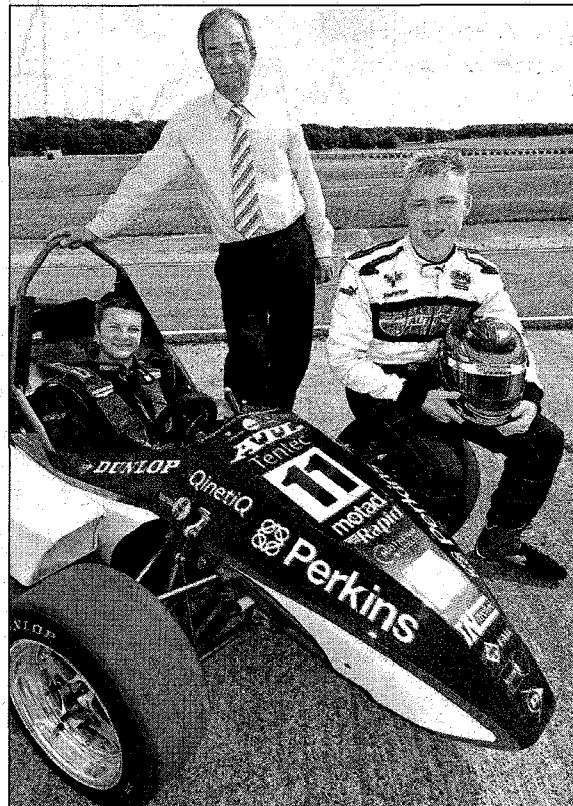
The University of Birmingham finished 11th out of 72 teams and was one of only seven representing the UK.

Dean was invited to help out by his accountant, Michael Meakin, a partner at Dudley-based Clement Keys who specialises in advising motorsport teams and drivers.

Mr Meakin said: "Having built its car to very high standards, the University of Birmingham team was confident it would be fast and reliable, but you only have to look at today's exponents of Formula One to see what a difference a good driver can make.

"We were delighted that Dean took time out of his busy schedule to ensure the team's drivers were equipped to get the best out of their car when they took to the circuit."

Over nine months, 25 engineering students designed and built their own hi-tech competitive racing car.



Alex Coignac-Smith, in the car, with Michael Meakin from Clement Keys, standing, and Wolverhampton racer Dean Smith

